

Serial No. 10/717,988
60130-1967; 01MRA0218**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for providing a window regulator cable assembly comprising the steps of:

mounting a cable drum wheel, a first top pulley wheel and a first bottom pulley wheel in a spaced apart relationship to form a subassembly;

mounting a cable arrangement to provide cable runs between each of the the cable drum wheel, the first top pulley wheel and the first bottom pulley wheel, wherein at least one of the cable drum wheel, the first top pulley wheel and the first bottom pulley wheel is spaced from another of the cable drum wheel, the first top pulley wheel and the first bottom pulley wheel by at least one semi-rigid tube that surrounds ~~an associated~~each of the cable ~~runs~~runs, and the at least one semi-rigid tube is subject to an axial load to maintain tension in the cable arrangement; and

mounting the subassembly on a rigid frame to remove the axial load from the at least one semi-rigid tube.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein the rigid frame is a vehicle door.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 1 further including the step of removing the at least one semi-rigid tube after the step of mounting the subassembly on the rigid frame.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein the at least one semi-rigid tube is made of an extruded plastic material.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 4 wherein the extruded plastic material is selected from the group consisting of PVC and polyethylene.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein the at least one semi-rigid tube is substantially straight.

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7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein the at least one semi-rigid tube includes a longitudinal slit that allows mounting of the at least one semi-rigid tube on each of the cable runs and allows for removal of the at least one semi-rigid tube from each of the cable runs.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein the step of mounting the first top pulley wheel and the ~~second top~~^{first} bottom pulley wheel includes pivotally mounting the first top pulley wheel and the first bottom pulley wheel by a first top pivot and a first bottom pivot, respectively, wherein the first top pivot and the first bottom pivot are mounted on a first rigid member.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 8 ~~further including~~ wherein the at least one semi-rigid tube comprises a first semi-rigid tube and a second semi-rigid tube, and the cable runs comprise a first cable run between the cable drum wheel and the first top pulley wheel and a second cable run between the cable drum wheel and the first bottom pulley wheel, and wherein first semi-rigid tube is mounted on the first cable run between the cable drum wheel and first top pulley wheel and ~~the~~ second semi-rigid tube is mounted on the second cable run between the cable drum wheel and the first bottom pulley wheel.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 9 further including the steps of pivotally mounting a second top pulley wheel on a second top pivot ~~and, pivotally~~ mounting a second bottom pulley wheel on a second bottom pivot, and mounting the second top pivot and the second bottom pivot on a second rigid member spaced laterally from the first rigid member.

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11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 10 wherein the at least the semi-rigid tube comprises a plurality of semi-rigid tubes, and the cable runs further comprise a third cable run between the first top pulley wheel and the first bottom pulley wheel a fourth cable run between the second top pulley wheel and the second bottom pulley wheel, and wherein one of the third cable runs run between the first top pulley wheel and the second bottom pulley wheel include one of the plurality of semi-rigid tubes and wherein one of the fourth cable runs run between the second top pulley wheel and the first bottom pulley wheel includes one another of the plurality of semi-rigid tubes.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 1 further including wherein the cable runs comprise a plurality of cable runs and two cable runs of said plurality of cable runs that intersect and at least one of the two cable runs includes one of the at least one semi-rigid tube to prevent contact between the two cable runs.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 1 further including the step of engaging a cable tensioning system having a resiliently mounted deflector on a portion of one of the cable runs to deflect said portion laterally and to increase the effective length of the one of the cable runs.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein the cable assembly further includes at least one cable defining a longitudinal direction and having an end mounted in a cable end housing, and the end is biased in the longitudinal direction by a resilient member to shorten the effective length of the at least one cable to tension the cable arrangement.

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15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A window regulator cable assembly comprising:
a cable drum wheel, a first top pulley wheel, and a first bottom pulley wheel in a spaced apart relationship;
a cable arrangement mounted on the cable drum wheel, the first top pulley wheel and the first bottom pulley wheel to form a plurality of cable runs between each of the cable drum wheel, the first top pulley wheel and the first bottom pulley wheel; and
a semi-rigid tube surrounding ~~an associated~~the plurality of cable ~~runs~~ to temporarily space apart at least one of the cable drum wheel, the first top pulley wheel, and the first bottom pulley wheel from another of the cable drum wheel, the first top pulley wheel, and the first bottom pulley wheel to maintain an initial tension in the cable arrangement before assembly of the cable drum wheel, the first top pulley wheel, and the first bottom pulley wheel onto an associated rigid frame.

16. (ORIGINAL) The assembly as recited in claim 15 wherein the semi-rigid tube is made of a plastic material.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly as recited in claim 16 wherein the plastic material is selected from the group consisting of PVC and polyethylene.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly as recited in claim 15 wherein the semi-rigid tube includes a longitudinal slit that facilitates assembly of the semi-rigid tube on each of the associatedplurality of cable ~~runs~~ and facilitates removal of the semi-rigid tube from each of the associatedplurality of cable ~~runs~~.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly as recited in claim 15 further including a second cable run that intersects the semi-rigid tube, and the semi-rigid tube prevents contact between one of the associatedplurality of cable ~~runs~~ and the second cable run.

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20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly as recited in claim 15 further including a cable tensioning system having a resiliently mounted deflector that engages a portion of one of the plurality of cable runs to deflect the portion laterally and increase an effective length of the one of the plurality of cable runs.

21. (ORIGINAL) The assembly as recited in claim 15 further including at least one cable having an end defining a longitudinal direction and mounted in a cable end housing, and the cable end is biased in the longitudinal direction by a resilient member to shorten an effective length of the at least one cable to tension the cable arrangement.